

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A wire winding machine, comprising:
 - a mandrel ~~having a removable end cap~~ for winding wire thereon;
 - a clamp and cutter for securing a wire to said mandrel and cutting the wire in response to said end cap being secured to said mandrel, and releasing said wire from said clamp in response to said end cap being removed from said mandrel; and the mandrel having a removable end cap that forms a part of the mandrel and rotates therewith during a wire winding operation and which is removable from the mandrel to enable a wire winding to be removed from the mandrel.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) A clamping and cutting mechanism for a wire winding machine mandrel having a removable end cap and mounted on a shaft, said mechanism comprising:
 - a fixed block secured to said mandrel, said block including a clamping surface and a cutting edge;
 - a ~~pivotal~~ pivot lever including a clamping finger and a cutting finger, and further including an actuating arm extending at least partially around said shaft;
 - said lever actuated by said end cap, and operative to clamp and cut a wire in response to said end cap being secured to said mandrel.
4. (Original) The clamping and cutting mechanism of claim 3, wherein said clamping finger and said cutting finger are recessed into voids formed in said mandrel when said end cap is removed from said mandrel.
5. (Original) The clamping and cutting mechanism of claim 3, further including a wire gauge adjustment mechanism for permitting said clamping and cutting mechanism to accommodate various gauges of wire.

6. (Original) The clamping and cutting mechanism of claim 5, wherein said wire gauge adjustment mechanism includes a screw and a wire engaging surface secured to said screw such that adjustment of said screw varies the effective distance between said clamping surface and said clamping finger.
7. (Original) The clamping and cutting mechanism of claim 3, wherein said clamping and cutting mechanism is biased to an open position when said end cap is removed from said mandrel.
8. (Original) A wire winding mandrel, comprising:
 - a mandrel mounted on a shaft for winding wire thereon;
 - an end cap removably connected to said mandrel;
 - a spacing collar mounted on said shaft and operative to translate along said shaft between an outer and inner position, said collar biased to said outer position;
 - a fixed block secured to said mandrel, said block including a clamping surface and a cutting edge;
 - a pivotally mounted lever moveable between an open and closed position, said lever including a clamping finger and a cutting finger, and further including a wishbone actuating arm extending at least partially around said shaft, said lever biased to an open position; andwherein, said end cap, when secured to said mandrel, urges said collar from said outer to said inner position, actuating said actuating arm and urging said clamping finger proximate said clamping surface of said fixed block to clamp a wire positioned therebetween and engaging said cutting finger with said cutting edge of said fixed block to cut a wire positioned therebetween.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A method of transferring wire to the winding mandrel of a wire winding machine where the mandrel includes a removable end cap that when secured to the mandrel rotates therewith, but is removable to enable a wire winding to be removed from the mandrel, the method comprising:
- guiding the wire into a clamping and cutting mechanism affixed to the mandrel by
 - positioning the wire adjacent the mandrel;
 - and clamping and cutting the wire in response to said end cap being secured to the mandrel; and
 - releasing the cable in response to the end cap being removed from the mandrel.
12. (New) The method of claim 11 including causing a lever to be moved in response to the end cap being secured to the mandrel.
13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the lever is pivotally mounted and wherein the securement of the end cap to the mandrel causes the lever to pivot which results in the wire being clamped and cut.
14. (New) The method of claim 11 including in response to the end cap being secured to the mandrel, causing a clamping finger and a cutting finger to engage the wire and cause the wire to bear against a clamping surface and a cutting edge such that when the wire is cut a portion of the wire is still clamped against the clamping surface of the mandrel.